ZEHEN-E-JADID

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Indo-Japan co-operation

1629. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Japan have agreed to broaden their areas of cooperation in economic and other fields;

(b) if so, whether the Prime Minister has met his Japanese counterpart during his visit to the New York;

(c) whether any delegation from Japan has visited India to implement the decisions taken during the talks by the two Prime Ministers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) to (c) Yes.

(d) During Prime Minister's visit to Japan in December, 2001, it had been agreed to hold a regular exchange of views at high levels to facilitate the cross sectoral dialogue on bilateral, regional and international issues. Deepened economic relations are seen as an essential underpinning to strengthen the bilateral relationship. Information and communication technology are areas where there are extraordinary strong complementarities between the two countries. The comprehensive security dialogue as well as Military-to-Military consultations are to be held annually and a dialogue on counter terrorism included in the former. Prior to Prime Minister's visit, Japan had, in October 2001, unilaterally lifted the "economic measures" imposed on India in May, 1998. It was also agreed to

commemorate the 50th Anniversary of India-Japan diplomatic relations. Both Prime Ministers during their meeting in New York in September 2002 on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly agreed to further strengthen relations on the basis of the India-Japan Joint Declaration issued on 10 December 2001.

The Japanese delegations that visited India since December 2001, *inter alia,* include the following:

(i) Four delegations in March, September, October 2002 and January 2003 to study and review economic co-operation between the two countries. ODA for India during fiscal 2002 amounting to Japanese Yen 110 billion was announced.

(ii) Two Missions in March and September-October 2002 in connection with the Japanese offer of assistance for projects to clean the Ganga River. A Scope of Work for study on Water Quality Management Plan for Ganga River was signed.

(iii) Former Japanese Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori in October 2002 as Special Envoy of Prime Minister Koizumi.

(iv) Foreign Minister of Japan Ms. Yoriko Kawaguchi paid an official visit to India on 7-8 January 2003. Bileteral and multilateral issues of mutual interest were discussed.

Indian view on Iraq war

1630. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what has been India's endeavour to achieve a stand-off over the Iraqi war issue;

(b) the other nations, who depend on Gulf crude supplies, who are in touch with India to avoid a conflict in the Gulf region threatening disruption in oil supplies; and

(c) whether India has expressed its views in the United Nations over the issue, calling for moderation on the part of US?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) and (c) India is vitally interested